

LINKING TO THE
Charming Colour Scheme

Lighting up Time: 5.45 p.m.
High Water: 12.55.
Low Water: 19.35.
Library, Supreme Court



Hongkong Telegraph.

C. E. WARD & CO., LTD.
General Managers

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1931. 日三廿月一十

50 PER ANNUM
SINGLE COPY 10 CENTS

"South China Morning Post Bldg." Tel. 4554.

ANTI-FASCIST BOMBS IN POSTAL PACKAGES.

EXPLOSIONS IN HEART OF LONDON.
FAMOUS AVENUE TORN UP.
GAS MAIN BLAZE LASTS HOURS.

(Reuter's Special Service).

London, Dec. 30.
Flames, shooting to a height of ten feet in the middle of London's financial centre and fed constantly by damaged gas mains, provided a thrilling spectacle to-day.

City workers were startled, and scuttled to the comparative safety of doorways and adjoining premises, this morning when the sound of a terrific explosion came from a manhole in Throgmorton Avenue, which is the heart of City finance.

The explosion was followed by five others of different manholes in quick succession, and immediately afterwards, flames shot up from damaged parts of the roads, roaring continuously.

A portion of the pavement and the road were torn up by the explosion and some of the windows in the street were smashed.

Traffic Stopped.

Authority soon had the situation in control. The street was closed to traffic and firemen were on the scene fighting the flames.

Eventually, one of the manholes was opened and entered in an effort to trace the source of the escape, and the flames were finally extinguished after a blaze lasting for two and a half hours.

No Casualties.

There were no casualties despite the fact that large crowds were in Throgmorton Avenue on their way to their offices when the explosions occurred.

The affair was somewhat similar to that which occurred in High Holborn about twelve months ago.

SILVER LITTLE EASIER.

HONGKONG DOLLAR UNCHANGED.

Silver is unchanged in London for spot, but is down 1/8th for forward delivery. Small business is reported, with the market quiet.

There is a decline of 1/8th in New York, while the cross-rate has also dropped a little, the quotation being 3.39.

The Hongkong dollar remains unchanged, but the market is slightly easier, with practically nothing doing.

NOTED JOURNALIST SINKING.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN GOVERNOR.

London, Dec. 30.
Mr. C. P. Scott, Governing Director of the Manchester Guardian, who is lying seriously ill at his Manchester home, was reported weaker to-day.—British Wireless.

SIGNALLING OUT 1931.

FROM OBSERVATORY TO-NIGHT.

The 9 p.m. time signal will be repeated on the Observatory wireless mast at midnight to-night. The last signal will indicate the close of 1931.

PLOT TO MURDER DIPLOMATS.

SENSATIONAL AFFAIR IN PENNSYLVANIA.

ONE KILLED AND TWO SERIOUSLY INJURED AT POST OFFICE.

ITALIANS ARRESTED.

New York, Dec. 30.

An anti-Fascist terrorist organisation is believed to be responsible for a tragic affair at the Post Office at Easton, Pennsylvania, to-day when one official was killed and two were seriously injured as a result of an explosion of two postal packages, containing, it is supposed, bombs or infernal machines.

The explosions occurred among a batch of seven packages addressed from Easton to the Italian Consul-General in New York and the Italian Consulate at Pittsburgh amongst others.

A series of anti-Fascist outrages have occurred in different parts of America recently, the bombing of the Italian Consulate at Pittsburgh being among them, and to-day's shocking affair is believed to be further manifestation of the movement.

Seven packages were left at Easton Post Office by two men who departed hurriedly. One was addressed to the Italian Consul-General in New York, one to the Consulate at Pittsburgh, and others to the several foreign newspapers in New York.

Officials were suspicious because of recent events and were examining the parcels when one of them exploded, killing one of the officials instantly.

Another official, standing nearby, had both his arms blown off.

A second parcel exploded while it was being examined in the open air by a dynamite expert, who was seriously injured.

Two Suspects Caught.

The police soon afterwards arrested two New York Italians, who were reported to have been seen leaving the vicinity of the Post Office at about the time of the explosion.

The police believe that the affair was the result of a plot by anti-Fascists aiming at murdering a number of Italian financiers, journalists and diplomats in the United States.

It is feared that similar bomb-parcels may have been despatched from other cities and the Post Office has been ordered to give careful surveillance to all mails.

Special Guards.

Meanwhile every possible step is being taken to protect the lives of those threatened. The police



The Japanese advance on Chinchow is reported to be proceeding rapidly, though heavy fighting has taken place at several points. Our photo shows Japanese infantry on a Manchuria battlefield.

"RED-SHIRT" UNREST.

MEETING NIGHT KHATTAK AFFIANT.

Peshawar, Dec. 30.

The menace to the peace of the North-West Frontier Province appears to have been removed, though it was again considered necessary to draft a small body of British troops into Peshawar to-night.

It is reported, however, that there was no further renewal of last night's demonstrations and the military were not called upon to take any action.

One hundred and twenty of the Red-Shirts arrested last week at Kohat were released to-day after apologising and promising to abstain from further disturbances. There is still some slight unrest in the Khattak District where meetings were held to-day in defiance of the Government.—Reuter.

HOME SECRETARY IN MISHAP.

MOTOR-CAR SKIDS ON ICY ROAD.

London, Dec. 30.

The Home Secretary, Sir Herbert Samuel, who had been spending part of the recess at Torquay, went by motor-car to visit Dartmoor Prison at Princetown to-day. The machine skidded in the ice and the minister fell into a ditch, but fortunately Sir Herbert was not injured.—British Wireless.

BRITISH TENNIS TOURISTS.

STRONG TEAM FOR THE WEST INDIES.

(Reuter's Special Service).

London, Dec. 30.

One of the strongest lawn tennis teams to leave England will sail on January 19th on a tour of the West Indies.

The team will comprise the following players:—Miss Betty Nuthall, Mrs. Whittington, F. J. Perry, G. P. Hughes, G. M. Lee and H. K. Lester.

The tour will be of six weeks, duration.

LATEST BOYCOTT MOVE.

BY CHINESE IN A BRITISH COLONY.

(Reuter's Special Service).

London, Dec. 30.

A message from Port of Spain, Trinidad, states that the Chinese there, following the example of their compatriots elsewhere, have decided to boycott Japanese merchandise.

As a result, it is expected that trade totalling \$20,000 will be diverted to Britain.

RAPID JAPANESE ADVANCE.

CHINA AGITATING FOR LEAGUE ACTION.

BOTH CHINESE and Japanese sources report a rapid advance by the Japanese troops towards Chinchow, and Kowpangtze is said to have fallen to the attackers.

The Chinese representative in Paris is agitating strongly for League action and for the hastening of the despatch of the Commission of Inquiry. It is stated, however, that the British Government is delaying its completion, having failed to appoint its member.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY DELAY.

Paris, Dec. 30.

A further hitch has arisen over the constitution of the League's Commission of Enquiry in Manchuria owing to the difficulty of finding a British member, the Earl of Lytton having, apparently, declined the offer to become chairman.

All the other members are already virtually appointed, although it is now learned that the American member will not be Mr. Walter Hines, but will probably be an Army general, whose name has not been mentioned, but is not General Danes.

The need for sending out the Commission as quickly as possible is being urged by Mr. Hoo, who is keeping in touch with M. Briand on the subject and recently made representations to the French Foreign Minister with reference to the delay in completing the personnel.

No Reply From Britain.

TRAGIC AFFAIR IN SHANGHAI.

BRITISH WOMAN FOUND DEAD.

(Our Own Correspondent).

Shanghai, Dec. 31.

Mrs. Maude Kornfeldt, the British widow of a Norwegian ship's captain, was found dead in a boarding house at 21, Love Lane, at 10.30 yesterday morning, lying face downwards on the floor.

Near the body, on a table, was a water glass with white sediment in the bottom.

The houseboy, when questioned by the police, said he saw his mistress place some pellets in a glass at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, when she complained of a headache and called him to light a coal stove. He also noticed that a bottle had been thrown into the fire, and, furthermore, saw a glass of beer near at hand.

Husband a Suicide.

Captain Halling, the owner of the boarding house, passed Mrs. Kornfeldt's door at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, and saw her lying on the floor. The body was found an hour later by the houseboy, in the same position. The police were later called to the scene.

Mrs. Kornfeldt's husband committed suicide a year ago by jumping from his ship while in Vladivostok Harbour.

Several months ago, Mrs. Kornfeldt was denied entrance into England, and she returned to Shanghai aboard the N.Y.K. liner Tokumaru only last Saturday.

JAPANESE ADVANCE ON CHINCHOW.

CHINESE PROTEST TO THE LEAGUE.

Geneva, Dec. 30.

A Japanese Note to the League Secretariat announces the despatch of a Mixed Brigade from Korea to Manchuria, in the vicinity of Antung, near the border.

Antung is on the Seoul-Mukden Railway.

A Chinese Note to the League declares that the Japanese have commenced aerial bombing raids on townships to the west of Mukden. The Note states that Tsin-Ian-shan, Chongwou and Sishan stations on the Peking-Mukden Railway have been bombed, while the Japanese are alleged to be dividing their troops into three groups with a view to an advance on Chinchow.—Reuter.

Diphtheria Outbreak.

Apparently on the Wane.

CARRIER DANGER.

"I am not expecting any sensational collapse of the epidemic, but indications are that it is abating," said Dr. G. W. Pope, the Medical Officer of Health, this morning, in reference to the diphtheria outbreak.

Up to 10.30 this morning no new case had been notified since last evening. This suggests that the Medical Officer's hopes, expressed yesterday, that by the end of the week, the epidemic will be definitely on the wane, are materialising.

But, Dr. Pope emphasises, there must be no lessening of precautions, for the present danger is that of human carriers. It is therefore absolutely essential that everybody should avoid crowds in congested atmospheres as much as possible.

The Medical Officer expressed satisfaction at the manner in which organisers of public functions have responded to medical advice and cancelled various functions arranged in connexion with the New Year.

Dr. Pope also referred to the effect of the epidemic on the movement of ships and said that diphtheria was not regarded as a quarantine disease; therefore, it makes no difference to the freedom of ships' movement. One likely thing was that through passengers, either to Shanghai or Manila, might be examined by the authorities upon arrival at either of these ports.

At noon one further case had been notified and the latest figures in connexion with the outbreak show that up to this morning there have been 99 notifications during December, 73 since the 22nd of the month. There have been three fatalities, two Chinese and one little German boy, aged 6, who died in the Kowloon Hospital on Christmas Day.

The latest functions cancelled in consequence of the outbreak are the New Year's Day carnival dance arranged by the Kowloon Dock Recreation Club, and the St. George's Ball, which was to have been held on January 6th.

REPARATIONS BUGBEAR.

NO HOPE FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT.

BRITAIN ACCEPTS THIS VIEW.

London, Dec. 30.

Conversations between British and French financial experts in anticipation of the International Conference on Reparations will shortly be resumed.

They are being directed to the narrowing down of the margin of difference between the British and French theses on the various outstanding questions, and it is hoped that a considerable measure of common policy will emerge for submission to their Governments before the Conference assembles.

It is recognised that the present circumstances are unfavourable for achieving a permanent settlement.

It is hoped, however, that a temporary arrangement on reparations payments that will tide over the crisis in Germany, will be reached at the Conference. The British Government has taken initiative so far as suggesting to those concerned that the Conference could meet conveniently at Lausanne and that, subject to the approval of the other Powers, it should begin on January 18th.—British Wireless.